

Do Your Doody: Sign the “They Drop it, You Drink It” Pledge.

Not only is the dog poop which gets left behind in our parks and on our beaches a nuisance and an eyesore, it can also be bad for the environment and a public health risk! Dog poop contains bacteria including Fecal Coliform and E. Coli which can get into water ways and pollute our drinking water. Many towns in the Tahoe basin get their drinking water straight from the lake, so remember, if “They Drop It, You Drink It”.

- By signing this pledge, you promise to always clean up after your dog.
YOU are helping to keep Lake Tahoe and the Lake Tahoe Basin clean and green!

I pledge to always clean up after my dog, even in my own yard.

I pledge to carry extra doggy bags on my daily walks.

I pledge to encourage other dog owners to clean up after their pets.

I pledge to educate others about the “They Drop it, You Drink It” Campaign.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Are you Interested in Adopting a neighborhood Mutt Mitt station?

We could use your help by volunteering to “adopt” a Mutt Mitt station around Lake Tahoe.

Mutt Mitt stations are installed in high dog use areas to provide dog walkers with free doggy waste bags, an educational sign, and a and a small trash can to put the bagged dog waste in.

Volunteers are needed to be responsible for refilling the dispensers with new bags (provided by Tahoe Water Suppliers Association) and making sure the dog waste container is emptied.

If you are interested in adopting a station, or would like to know more, please us with your name, phone number, and e-mail address. Thank you.

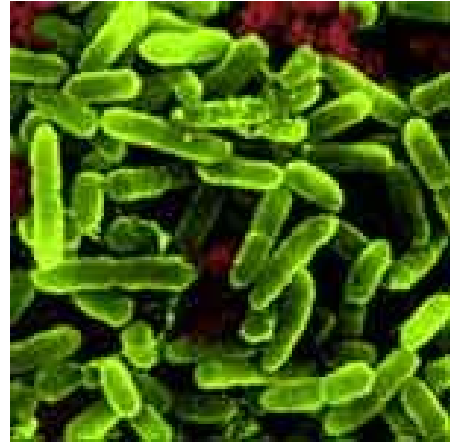
Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ / E-mail: _____

Do you have a neighborhood spot in mind you would like to adopt?

If not, what area would you consider volunteering for? (Example: Tahoe City/ Highlands area)

What is the real scoop on dog poop?



DOG WASTE and its affect on WATER QUALITY

Dog poop; not just an aesthetic issue, but a water quality issue.

At Lake Tahoe and many other areas throughout the United States, people have become concerned about the effects of accumulated dog wastes on water quality. Dog wastes, like any wastes, may contain a variety of microbes, some of which could cause disease.

If enough dog waste accumulates in an area, it has the potential to contaminate water, which can, in turn, affect human health. Examples of diseases that can be transmitted from dogs to humans through feces include Salmonella, Giardia, E-Coli and Cryptosporidium.

A recent study conducted by scientists at University of Nevada Reno Cooperative Extension found that the desiccation, or drying out, of dog feces kills off harmful bacteria that is typically present in feces.

The study found that E. Coli almost completely died off after sixty hours in climates with evaporation rates of .08 inches per day, and after fifteen hours for evaporation rates of .30 inches per day. Evaporation rates in the Tahoe area range from about .20 inches per day during the dry summer months to almost zero during the cooler, wetter months in fall, winter, and spring.

Although there is still the potential for water contamination during the summer, these findings suggest that the risk of water contamination from dog feces is greatest during the cooler, wetter months when there is increased snowmelt and rainfall, coupled with lower evaporation rates.

During times of increased snow and snowmelt, dog feces left on road sides and near waterways such as stream channels eventually wash into Lake Tahoe, and can potentially contaminate the drinking water source for many communities around the lake.

Take the “They Drop It, You Drink It”- Clean-Up Pledge” and Help Protect the Source! (on the back)

